

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) Box for a set of electric storage batteries comprising at least two side walls (12, 14) extending parallel and defining between themselves a housing for receiving the batteries, the box being characterized in that the side walls (12, 14) consist of an assembly of stacked modules (16) each comprising a pair of wall elements (18, 20) mounted opposite each other, wherein,

the pair of wall elements (18, 20) are two horizontally opposed wall elements (18, 20) together forming a floor support for any battery the batteries stored therebetween,

each of the two horizontally opposed wall elements forming form a floor support for one edge of each battery stored therebetween, and

the two horizontally opposed wall elements are separated from each other by an intervening air space so that the two horizontally opposed wall elements support each battery by opposite base edges of the battery with a base area of the battery between the opposite edges unsupported and exposed to the intervening air space.

10. (currently amended) Box according to claim 9,  
characterized in that each wall element (18, 20) comprises at  
least one folded edge (24) that defines, jointly with a folded  
edge of the wall element mounted opposite it, a support for at  
least one row of batteries, two horizontally opposed folded edges  
being separated from each other by the intervening air space.

11. (previously presented) Box according to claim 9,  
characterized in that it also comprises battery retention  
means (38).

12. (previously presented) Box according to claim 11,  
characterized in that the retention means comprise a removable  
rod (38) extending through the folded edges (22, 24) of the  
stacked wall elements.

13. (previously presented) Box according to claim 9,  
characterized in that it also comprises two end plates (28, 30),  
each provided with fixing lugs (32) for the wall elements (18,  
20).

14. (previously presented) Box according to claim 13,  
characterized in that the end plates are provided with openings  
(34) for the ventilation of the battery elements.

15. (previously presented) Box according to claim 13, characterized in that the end plates are each provided with a handling point (36) for engagement by a lifting appliance.

16. (previously presented) System of boxes for a set of electric storage batteries, characterized in that it consists of an assembly of boxes (10) according to claim 9.

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) Box for a set of electric storage batteries comprising:

at least two side walls (12, 14) extending parallel and defining between themselves a housing for receiving the batteries, ~~the box being characterized in that~~

the side walls (12, 14) ~~consist~~ comprise of an assembly of connectedly attached stacked modules (16),

each stacked module comprising a pair of wall elements (18, 20) mounted opposite each other,

each wall element being in the form of a U section with arms (22, 24) pointing inwards into the housing toward coplanar arms of another wall element, the arms of each wall element being spaced apart, by an intermediate separating air space, from the coplanar arms of the another wall element,

the lower arm of the each wall element and the lower arm of the another wall element together forming an electric storage battery support; and

~~further comprising plural batteries,~~  
each battery supported on a battery base first edge by  
~~a base of a module~~ the lower arm of a ~~first of the two side~~  
~~walls~~ wall element and supported on a battery base second edge,  
parallel to the first edge, by ~~a base of a module~~ the lower arm  
of a ~~second of the two side walls~~ wall element so that the lower  
arms of two wall elements together support each battery by the  
first and second edges with an area of the battery base between  
the first and second edges being unsupported and exposed to the  
separating air space.

19. (currently amended) A battery box, comprising:  
plural batteries;  
a plurality of like wall elements (18, 20) vertically  
stacked in two opposing first and second columns; and  
two end plates enclosing opposing ends of the two  
columns,  
each wall element including  
~~a base formed of~~ a lower horizontal edge serving as one  
half of a divided battery support base,  
a horizontal upper edge for supporting ~~a base~~ the lower  
horizontal edge of another wall element, and  
a vertical section between the lower and upper  
horizontal edges,  
each battery supported on a first edge by ~~a base~~ the  
lower horizontal edge of ~~an~~ a first wall element of the first

column and supported on a second edge, parallel to the first edge, by ~~a base~~ the lower horizontal edge of ~~an~~ a first wall element of the second column, wherein,

the lower horizontal edge of the first wall element of  
the first column separated from the lower horizontal edge of the  
first wall element of the second column by an intermediate air  
space so that the lower arms of two wall elements support each  
battery by the first and second edges and a base area of the  
battery between the first and second edges is unsupported and  
exposed to the intermediate air space.

20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) Box according to claim 18, characterized in that the lower arm of each wall element (18, 20) comprises at least one folded edge (24) that defines, jointly with a folded edge of the wall element mounted opposite it, a support for at least one row of batteries.

22. (previously presented) Box according to claim 18, characterized in that it also comprises battery retention means (38).